



# MBA One Acts Bring the Magic

By Hamilton Garber  
Webmaster

The 2017 MBA Student-Directed One Acts, affectionately named *It's Always Sunny in Belle Meade* were another resounding success this year. Four seniors in the Theater Arts class, along with Dr. Cal Fuller, came together to cast and direct (and in one special case, write) each play.

The draw of the show lies in the great variety and shortness of each individual show. Typically, the plays run no longer than half an hour, and the audience gets to witness many plays of differing genres, themes, and styles. This year was no exception. Each of the five directors chose a distinct play that stood out, all for different reasons.

*Impromptu*, written by Tad Mosel and directed by Dr. Fuller with assistant director Peter Taylor, led the charge with a thought-provoking drama on the art of theater itself. Four actors are mysteriously invited to act in an impromptu play one afternoon. Timid Tony (Patrick Andreen) confronts Winifred (Sterling Akers), Ernest (Jack Capizzi), and Lora (Meredith Welborn) as they desperately try to act with no direction so that they might leave the stage. A few deep scenes, vehement debates, and comedic reliefs ensue, ending with a deep philosophical twist.

Assistant director, Peter Taylor, had this to say about the show: "Assistant directing, for me, was an excellent chance to engage with the theater community one last time before I graduate, as well as gain a new experience from the director side rather than the performer side. I am thankful to Dr. Fuller and his theater class for this opportunity."

Next came *Rules of Love*, written by Joe Pintauro and directed by John Fioravanti. This brief act featured a once couple, played by Harrison Kidd and Isabella

Kohler, who have gone their separate ways, Jim to his priesthood and Maisie to elsewhere. The scene takes place in a confessional as the two duke it out over their future together, or not. The open-ended cocusion to this play gives hope to the viewer for a happy future, despite the hopeless tone it features throughout the show.

John Fioravanti had this to say about his production: "I chose *Rules of Love* simply because I was captivated by its narrative. The story took me out of time and briefly planted me into the lives of Jim McGrath and Maisie. My goal with this show was to do the same with my audience."

Up next was a special play, *Tornado Warning*, written and directed by Tony Neuhooff. Being the only student in the theater class to write and direct his own play, Tony certainly had some extra ambition this season. He achieved making a well-written narrative slice of life that seemed almost cliché at first glance but ended in a open, creative way. The story features two, young grocery store workers trapped in the store because of severe weather. They have a bit of an awkward past, but tension reaches a new height as Charlotte (played Margaret Whitton) and Matthew (played by Jackson Long) are forced to carry on conversation. Things only get more awkward and funny upon the arrival of Charlotte's boyfriend, Zach (played by Caleb Jernigan).

When asked about the process, Tony Neuhooff said: "It all started with a play writing prompt Dr. Fuller gave us and I just came up wit the characters and a story loosely inspired by the events in my life and of others lives. The play evolved over months of writing. It was an overall great experience."

The next act was *The Universal Language*, written by David Ives and directed by Boaz Kelner. The story follows con man, Don (played by J. P.



**BULGARIAN RHAPSODY:** John Thornton '19, Hamilton Garber '17, Jack Carey '17, Amber Steigelfest HH '17, and Summer Kapanka HH '17 discuss life under the Romanian state.

Cooper), who teaches a fake language class to trick his marks. He meets his first student, Dawn, who is an awkward girl and tries to teach her Unamunda, his fake tongue. Hilarity follows. Mentionable also is a cameo appearance from Will Mader. Overall, the play was well thought out and required work and patience to conduct.

Boaz Kelner said this when asked about his play: "I decided to direct because I wanted to make an impact on young actors at MBA. Although I wasn't very active in theater, I wanted to be involved in at least one more production on the hill. I really fell in love with *The Universal Language* because of its wit and the complexities of the language."

Finally, *Bulgarian Rhapsody*, written by Rich Orloff and directed by Caleb Jernigan capped off the show. It is a hilarious comedy about the introduction of an American named Ken (played by Jack Carey), to a slew of Bulgarians in a post-communist society. Desislav and Ivana (played by John Jameson and Maggie Sullivan), galavant around with American

hopes while daughter Tatiana (played by Amber Steigelfest) and neighbor Plamen (played by Hamilton Garber) fight for Ken's supposed fortune, all while father and mother Vasilka and Stanamir (played by Summer Kapanka and John Thornton) try to be good hosts. With many laughs, the show succeeds with slight political undertones.

Caleb Jernigan spoke of the experience thus: "My main goal with *Bulgarian Rhapsody* was to make people laugh, but also think at the same time. Once you look past all of the sexual innuendos and crude humor, there is a deeper meaning to the play. It addresses relevant political and social issues but in a nonsensical, absurdist way. That's what I found so intriguing about it."

Once again, congratulations on a great show to all of those who acted, directed, management, tech, and costumes. The shows were on time and excellently choreographed thanks to your work. A big thanks to everyone who came out to support and made this year's One Acts another resounding success.



# Endada cont.

to the visitors. Two stages, one across from Ball, and one in front of the Dining Hall, provided central locations for music to be enjoyed as it radiated outward to the far ends of the lawn. Near the entrance to the Davis gallery, the now famous 1867 bell stood, overlooked by a clever pop art print of eponymous Montgomery Bell himself. Overall the decor provided for a welcoming environment for all to experience.

Another important aspect of Endada is the cuisine. As a more overlooked form of art, Endada seeks to promote local eateries along with some MBA staples. Food trucks Bajo Sexto and the Grilled Cheesery were parked at the far end of the quad to provide some necessary energy for the day's affairs. Southwestern tex-mex and cheesy goodness smells floated about near the gym steps. On the opposite side of the quadrangle, the world famous Grill and Chill club whipped up burgers for hungry art enthusiasts. A newcomer to Endada, Gigamunch, arrived this year. They offered affordable meals along with tantalizing samples of foreign cuisines, ranging from African chicken to Bavarian pastries. Of course, staples such as free snow cones and Mr. Paolicchi's root beer floats were complementary

for visitors. For dessert, Jeni's Ice Cream provided clever twists on the so often hackneyed treat. Going hungry at this festival was surely a difficult task.

Music is often a highlight of the experience. This year was no exception to the rule. Bands formed of MBA students worked for weeks to prepare for the show and their efforts were duly noted by their enthused listeners. Six bands performed: Will Trotman Band, Avitas, The Zooboomafoos, Gravy Train, The Second Planet, and of course, the legendary Grumblebunch. Although I was unable to witness all of these bands firsthand, bassist and kilt enthusiast Ben Gauldin summed up the acts with this simple sentence: "Music went well." Rock groups such as Avitas, Grumblebunch, and the Will Trotman band brought hype to the crowd, while the laid back vibes of Gravy Train and the Zooboomafoos brought the whole thing down a notch in the best way possible. The Second Planet marked a first in Endada history by being the first junior school band to perform, Rock on Gents! Remarkable as well was the Chinese Arts Alliance with their interesting demonstrations of dragon dancing paired with rhythmic drum beats. To wrap it up, the country music hall of fame

**BREWERY :** MBA's own Mr. Paolicchi serving up his concoction of ice cream and original root beer.



**BOOKMOBILE :** MBA's own Mrs. Hollifield with Grace and John of The Parnassus Bookmobile, the independent bookstore's roving literary agent.

brought their "Instrument Petting Zoo" where the general public could try out any of the numerous musical instruments.

"Endada is always one of my favorite events of the year," said Peter Taylor '17. "It's always so much fun to hang out with friends on a Saturday, listening to great bands and eating great

food." "Of course that should be a front page," said Mr. Jim

Womack, Art Department chair. "It was a fabulous event."

Some of the more noteworthy activities included a free button making machine, printmaking courtesy of Hatch Show Prints, and of course the chalk graffiti wall and mural. Overall, the experience was electrifying from start to finish. Another strong year marked down in the books. Thanks to Catherine Hollifield, Ben Gauldin, Jackson Satz, Bryce Ardisson, Webb Hunt, the MBA Art Department, all the performers and artists for making this year another amazing showing of the talent and importance of art in the MBA community.

If you missed this year's festival, next year's will be one not to miss. Thanks to everyone who showed up to support and enjoy the arts this year.





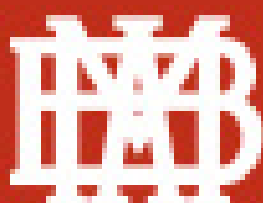
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# Syria in Turmoil



By Landis Hall  
Staff Writer

In early April 2017, President Trump ordered fifty nine tomahawk missiles to target

air bases in Syria after Syrian leader Bashar al Assad used chemical weapons on the population. Within a week, the U.S. Air Force dropped a Massive Ordnance Air Blast (MOAB), better known by its nickname, “Mother of All Bombs,” on a system of ISIS caves in Afghanistan. The MOAB is the second largest non-atomic bomb to exist, second only to the Massive Ordnance Penetrator (MOP). These attacks raise a valid question: should America institute a “shoot first” policy when it comes to relations with hostile countries, or should it take a more reserved and diplomatic approach?

The Syria attacks weren’t a smart move by Trump. He never got military authorization for the strikes, which caused him to break international law. He explained his reasoning behind the attacks, “Years of previous attempts at changing Assad’s behavior have all failed, and failed very drastically. As a result, the refugee crisis continues to deepen, and the region continues to destabilize, threatening the United States and its allies.”

While it is good to see Trump addressing the refugee crisis and Assad’s reckless actions, he hadn’t thought of the consequences of the

bombings in full. The attacks have further destabilized relations with Russia, one of Syria’s allies. One of the last things the country needs is another enemy, especially with the United States’ troubled past with Russia. Also, no chemical weapons have been confirmed to have been at the air bases, which could have made these strikes not only unwarranted, but also pointless.

The Syria strikes are small in comparison with the Afghanistan bombing, however, which is the far more important event. It’s not very often that a 15 ton bomb is used against ISIS forces. This time, the attacks were fully authorized, and sixteen kills have been confirmed. The mission itself was much less of a fiasco than the Syria strikes, but there are still more consequences. Many people

**The United States should approach overseas situations diplomatically, and use military actions sparingly.**

are confused over why such a large bomb was needed. Naser Kamawal, a member of the Nangahar provincial council, said, “If there was some



PANIC IN THE STREETS: A look into the cause in Syria.

ninety Islamic State militants, then why were our own Afghan forces not able to eliminate them in a military operation - what was the need for using such a big bomb?”

Kamawal brings up a good point. If the goal was to kill only a maximum of ninety people, then why was the second largest non-atomic bomb needed? Why did the U.S. even need to get involved if the Afghan military could have done it themselves? It’s not our country’s job to get involved in the affairs of another nation, even that nation wasn’t doing anything about the situation.

This statement leads to a clear conclusion: the United States

should approach overseas situations diplomatically, and use military actions sparingly. “We strongly condemn the illegitimate actions by the U.S. The consequences of this for regional and international stability could be extremely serious,” said Russia’s deputy U.N. envoy Vladimir Safronkov.

If the U.S. continues abusing power in this way, another World War is inevitable. The U.S. should remain aware of hostile actions from other countries, but it should not be reckless in its military actions.



*The Bell Ringer would like to congratulate the MBA Art Department on a successful art*

# Capizzi Challenges Taylor on Political Divide



By Jack Capizzi  
Entertainment Editor

The reality of the disparity of discourse between Harpeth Hall and Montgomery Bell Academy is not displayed through

total unity and cooperation but rather through the conflicting viewpoints that spark conversation and argument. It is the ability to engage in certain conversations where ideas may flourish that makes certain institutions so great.

In the last edition of *The Bell Ringer*, Editor-In-Chief Peter Taylor wrote in an article originally published in Harpeth Hall's newspaper *Logos* that MBA's diversity of thought is "masked by the vigor of people who only make up a portion of our school's identity," and that "the voice of the mob, where conservative and restrained thought are united by enthusiasm for belligerence and energy, is louder than the voice of everyone else."

These claims misrepresent the actual discourse that exists on a day-to-day basis at MBA.

In our own student run presidential mock-election, the diversity of our student body's political make up shined through. Votes for Trump did not even

clear fifty percent of the entire school and only hit that mark three out of six times on a grade-specific level. This school-wide election displayed how expansive the range of thought is on the Hill, as well as the reason for why the idea that conservatives hijack any chance of others expressing their opinions is absurd.

Another interesting statistic from the election that displayed the health of campus rhetoric is the majority of the faculty's expressing more liberal-leaning viewpoints. This divide in opinion serves as fertile ground upon which classroom discussion and debate can push students to become more intrigued and involved in an alternative but stimulating fashion by something other than a typical lecture.

In terms of one's ability to express one's own opinion, MBA stands as a beacon for discourse in comparison to the oppressive nature of schools that have student bodies blanketed by support for single beliefs. While a school such as Harpeth Hall may be heralded for its political unity, there is a much starker divide in political opinion, shown by their treatment of those with conservative views. One Harpeth Hall senior said of the matter, "If you have conservative views at HH, you are in the minority. The majority

of the students and faculty are very liberal in their thinking and are often opposed to conservative viewpoints. As a conservative, I have often felt uncomfortable and marginalized,

**Articles in the same vein as the one published in the last issue of *The Bell Ringer* represent the misunderstandings of some regarding MBA's student body, as well as the beliefs of many who have been made to feel marginalized.**

especially during the recent election."

The real disparity comes in the response of those who view MBA through tinted lenses to what they think is aggression but is actually a healthy contrast of ideas. In his article, Peter equated conservative thought with "enthusiasm for belligerence and energy." He went on to state that the "mob mentality" of support for conservative ideas "capitalizes on the human, particular male tendency to follow instead of lead." To claim that support for conservatism or for Trump

is based on gender-specific tendencies is not only condescending towards the free-thinking minds of these supporters, but it is also hypocritical in that many of these voices of criticism simultaneously praise and applaud the group mentality of such people as Harpeth Hall students when they support liberal issues.

These condescending tendencies must be realized along with the frustration and anger they cause. The patronizing tone taken against those who question left-leaning principles has caused a feeling of resentment in many of those who felt driven to support Trump to express their dissatisfaction.

Articles in the same vein as the one published in the last issue of *The Bell Ringer* represent the misunderstandings of some regarding MBA's student body, as well as the beliefs of many who have been made to feel marginalized.

If you encounter someone with ideas that differ from your own, do not blame his difference on those around him, or his age, or his gender. Instead, take the time to examine how he has reached his own conclusions and, from your findings, proceed in a positive fashion towards a debate that does not insult the other voice but rather engages with it in a constructive manner.

## Scholer Sizes Up The March For Science



By Philip Scholer  
Assistant News Editor

On April 22, people around the world celebrated Earth Day. This year in the U.S., the celebrations were a bit heated. Thousands

around the country marched because they believed science can and should play a bigger role in politics and that, as part of our dedication to promoting the general welfare, should invest in scientific discoveries that better the lives of all Americans.

Scientists such as Bill Nye believe that scientific exploration has always been political, stating in his editorial for CNN, "Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution refers to promoting 'the progress of science and useful arts' to motivate innovators, stimulate the economy and establish just laws."

Science advocates clung to this message during this year's Earth Day because they feel that science, most notably the science proving climate change, is being neglected by our current administration. Frank von Hippel, a physicist at Princeton University, explains that this current administration's policy is founded "on fantasy instead of analysis and information."

Nonetheless, signs such as "Keep your Tiny Hands off my Science" that

personally attack the president will not be effective. This president will not change his environmental policies because of personal insults.

These signs directed towards the president were scarce among the many positive signs that promoted science. Marching for political reasons while remaining positive challenged advocates to focus on a broad belief in the capabilities of scientific, rather than political policies.

Science has always been at the forefront of American progress. It was science that discovered a vaccine to cholera and the plague that saved American lives. It was science that built the Apollo 11 that took us to moon. And it was science that created the technology for the ubiquitous rectangles we rely on. Advocates, therefore, hope that demonstrating what science can accomplish for this country will sway the policies that are void of science.

Though the leading March for Science took place on the National Mall, many marches took place around the country, including Nashville. Assembling on the legislative plaza downtown, the Nashville March for Science pursued the same goals that the national march did, stating in its mission, "The March for Science is a celebration of our passion for science and a call to support and safeguard the scientific community."

A friend who joined the national March



**MARCH:** A crowd of activists assembled in support of the Earth.

for Science told me, "The science march was a beautiful example of people coming together to stand up for something they believed in. The enthusiasm and care that the marchers put forth showed how American's will not let ignorance become the norm and we will make America think again!"

The scientific community needs a safeguard, but science itself does not. Science, the truth we see around us, pushes all boundaries. Science is objective, external, existing in its own right. Science is not an opinion or a political ideology. Science is reality. You may disagree with those who marched on Earth Day on how effective the march was or on the slogans they used, but we cannot to dismiss underlying principle they were

marching for: science.

Though, I understand it is difficult to support these marchers if you disagree on policy. So let's look past the political hot-button issues. Science does not exist in the political firestorms of the day, nor should it, because science is reality. Policy, what we debate, is not reality because policy is compromise. The reality we see does not change with our ability to understand or agree with it. Rather, science exists in us in our constant desire to discover the nature of things around us.

These Earth Day Celebrations remind us to recall science's position in our minds and in our nation's policy as a leading proclamation of American commitment to discovery and progress.



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Letters to the Editor are encouraged, and can be delivered to the *Bell Ringer* office in the Lowry Building, the Faculty Advisors or the Editors, or sent to [bellringer@montgomerybell.edu](mailto:bellringer@montgomerybell.edu) (simply type 'Bell Ringer' into the school email). These letters must be signed; *The Bell Ringer* neither publishes anonymous submissions of opinions or articles nor permits individuals to remain unidentified unless protected by other rules of confidentiality at MBA. Letters will be edited for length and clarity.

The staff of *The Bell Ringer* prepares all copy at Montgomery Bell Academy. Tennessean/Gannett in Nashville, Tennessee, prints the paper.

## Thoughts on the Senior Slide

"The moment I found out that the senior slide does not exist was one of the saddest of my life. I think MBA has taught us how to get things done."- Andrew Duffey

"I love how Mrs. Palmore has faith that the senior slide doesn't exist. That said, my time as a senior has prepared me for college in -- and definitely out of -- the classroom."- Mark Lillard

"The phrase 'senior slide' accurately depicts the phenomenon of the second semester senior. The learning capacity and motivation begin slowly eroding before quickly gaining speed. By the end, the class is hurtling to a splash of AP exams and near-exemptions from MBA finals."- John Fioravanti

"I haven't brought a backpack to school since before Spring Break."  
- Peter Taylor

"Don't do today what you can save for tomorrow."  
- Hamilton Garber

"Due today? Do today."- Anonymous

"That's too hard. Use that as a quote."- Joe Moxley

"Screw it."- Hayes Alley



Have you ever wanted to write a sentence that didn't analyze a literary works?

Are you afraid Harvard won't think you've "done enough"?

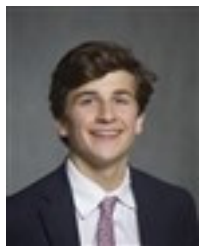
Would you like to attack the political beliefs of Peter Taylor or Jack Capizzi?

**Then write for *The Bell Ringer*!**

F. Scott Fitzgerald started his writing career by joining a student publication in college, and you only need to sit in on one of Mrs. Palmore's classes to know it led him to great success.

Contact Ben Coulthard or Jack Capizzi, and you can write the next *Great Gatsby*.

# Spear: Time for a Rotating Block Schedule



By Joe Spear  
Assistant Features  
Editor

Here at MBA, we pride ourselves on being a traditional, values-centered

school with roots and traditions dating back to the 1800s. And while, for the most part, such culture is great, there comes a time when progression out of old ways and adaptation to new ones is necessary.

Put simply, MBA needs to implement a block schedule. Not only does the block schedule produce a more productive school day, but it also prevents the stagnancy of the school week that plagues us here at MBA.

Even though our current schedule has been functioning many years, there are flaws to the non-rotational schedule which we use. While our classes are advertised as being 50 minutes long, after everyone settles in and class is ready to begin, there are only about 45 minutes left in the period for the actual teaching and learning.

Mr. Hutton encounters this struggle daily. He commented, "Only having 45 minutes to review homework, answer questions, pack all new material in, and add student activities is just not possible. My students learn and are involved significantly more in class if I engage them rather than just lecture, but with our current schedule

that is not always possible. There is simply not enough time. Every day I find myself racing the clock to try both to cover new material as well as involve the students."

He raises some excellent points, as I often find myself sitting in class for 45 minutes copying down exactly what the teacher says so that I can regurgitate it on a test and make a good grade without ever actually having to learn or understand it. Having five classes of homework every night prevents the possibility of spending an excess amount of time on just one topic or subject to fully master it.

Some classes are harder than others strictly because of where they are placed on a schedule, as classes that require more attention are much more challenging if they are placed at the end of the day as one is typically much more tired and less focused heading into seventh and eighth period.

I often find going through the day feels as if I am sitting on an assembly-line of classes, gobbling up new information to use on a test but never having enough time to actually learn and grasp it. Teachers tell us to review and study independently outside of class, but with five classes of homework to do, along with sports and extracurricular activities, it is just not a reasonable expectation.

Having a rotating block schedule would eliminate this issue because

having classes at various times during week would keep topics fresh and varied and reduce the monotony of the same routine every day. This would be of benefit to the teachers as well because students would have more time to prepare for their class correctly, as they would not be juggling the workload of five classes every night.

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This variety of learning methods benefits all parties involved and creates a happier, less stressed environment for both the teachers and the students.

"Tell me, and I'll forget; show me,

and I may remember; involve me, and I'll understand." Even in 500 B.C., Confucius knew that the best way to understand and be proficient with a topic is to be actively involved with it. With the freedom of eighty or ninety-minute classes, teachers would have the ability to engage students more in class and not have to cram material in because of time constraints.

The block schedule is highly favored with our friends at Harpeth Hall. One student had some thoughts to share: "The block schedule works to the student's advantage. By having classes that are eighty minutes long each, we can dive deeper into concepts and better our understanding of the material being studied. The teachers are also more relaxed as they have much more flexibility with how they can choose to run a class and involve the students. Having four classes a day feels like such a luxury, especially when it comes to after school work because we only have homework due for four classes rather than five or more."

If it works so well at Harpeth Hall, why doesn't MBA try it? Life is stressful enough at MBA, so why not make it a bit less hectic on a day-to-day basis and improve student life? MBA needs to keep up with new times and learning styles and implant the block schedule. The block schedule would be beneficial to teachers and students and create a healthier, less stressed environment here on the Hill.

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# Cowan: Stick to the Routine



By Robert Cowan  
Staff Writer

The block schedule is a staple at Harpeth Hall. Seven days and four classes a day to an

MBA student sounds like a dream. But there's more to it than just having four classes.

First, every student at MBA has a set routine for the day. Adopting the Harpeth Hall block schedule would throw everyone's routine out the window. Say goodbye to the beloved cookie breaks, the 30-minute cram sessions before a test, and the 30-minute naps. Also no more daily advisory meetings in the morning, no more club meetings during the week on a set day, and no more classic Monday assemblies would meet. The block schedule would make scheduling class meetings and club meetings a nightmare.

A Harpeth Hall junior echoes this concern: "There isn't much time in our schedule to do other things. [For example,] if you take a fine art, you don't get to have any study halls, which is really difficult."

The block schedule does not allow a student to get into a routine, and some days can be worse than the others. Some days, a student might have two academic classes, which sounds great, but then the next day, there might be four hour-and-a-half classes in a row with only a break for lunch. A Harpeth Hall student says she feels "mentally drained" after a day with four academic classes.

**Some people will try to argue that having the longer classes would allow you to complete some of the homework in that class period but that might not be true. Teachers might want to lecture the whole period allowing for the possibility for more homework than what would normally be assigned in a 50-minute class.**

Second is the problem with missing a day and the amount of material missed. We all know that missing a day with our schedule is challenging; a block schedule would make make-up more of a hassle. Learning almost double the material in a single class period and missing the class work would double the amount of make-up work for the student depending on the day missed.

Another downside is the 90-minute class. Right now, with our normal schedule and fifty-minute classes, I see a lot of kids who have a hard time staying awake and paying attention (me included). This problem would be a greater with 90-minute classes. The high schoolers get a taste of these longer periods with the double lab periods, where the classes are 100 minutes. While the lab periods are longer than what a block schedule would consist of, I've heard many my peers echo their displeasure with the double

lab periods. One said, "Some days for our lab we just did 100 minutes of only lecture, which is mentally draining. I couldn't imagine doing that for up to four classes a day."

Some people will try to argue that having the longer classes would allow you to complete some of the homework in that class period, but this might not be true. Teachers might want to lecture the whole period, allowing for the possibility for more homework than what would normally be assigned in a 50-minute class. And to the argument that getting more homework wouldn't be bad because we would have an extra day to complete it, that extra day would not matter. On the Harpeth Hall block, you might have the same class on back-to-back days, not allowing you to wait an extra day,

**Students might be happy that there is less time in class to learn the material, but that means a teacher has to cram even more material into the 90 minutes, making the workload harder.**

and on an A-B day block schedule, the extra day won't help because you will always be doing homework for a class the next day.

There is also a downside for the teachers in adopting a block schedule. I found a study about the block schedule, and I found this about the time difference because of an A-B block schedule: "On the traditional schedule, each class met

for five 55-minute periods a week for a total of 550 minutes every two weeks. On block, each class met for 90 minutes on alternating days (three days one week, two days the next) for a total of 450 minutes every two weeks.... This amounts to 15 hours of lost time in one semester, 30 hours in the school year, or the equivalent of six weeks of class time under the traditional schedule" (Source: <http://www.jefflindsay.com/Block3.shtml>).

Students might be happy that there is less time in class to teach the material, but this means a teacher has to cram even more material into the 90 minutes, making the workload harder for both teacher and student. For an AP course, instead of taking more time to go over a challenging subject, these subjects will be even more rushed than they already are, meaning students will need to allow for more study time, making the nights even longer than they already are at MBA.

A lot of students at MBA think they want the block schedule, but take a deeper dive into what this would mean for everyone involved. While a block schedule might work for some schools, it is not a good fit for MBA.



*"Away! away! for I will fly to thee,  
Not charioted by Bacchus and his  
pards,  
But on the viewless wings of Poesy."  
-John Keats*

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*Email all submissions (prose, poetry,  
fiction, non-fiction) to Peter "Tolstoy"  
Taylor, Asher "Cormac" Curnutte, or  
Dr. Ed "Melville" Tarkington.*



# Heflin Provides Astronomy Club Update

By Jack Heflin  
Staff Astronomer

On August 21, 2017, an awe-inspiring cosmic event will appear in the sky.

As students and faculty begin arriving back on campus for MBA's 151st year, the majority of the sun's light will be completely blocked, leaving visible only the sun's corona. This phenomenon is a solar eclipse: the Sun will be blocked by the Moon. It will last roughly three hours. For the majority of the eclipse, the Sun is only partially blocked, but for two minutes the Sun will be totally eclipsed by the Moon.

According to Dr. Dickens, even a partial eclipse was so intense that he

"could not do anything for the rest of the day." If it had that much influence on Dr. Dickens, imagine what seeing a total eclipse would do to the rest of the school? Although it will be the first day of school, a total solar eclipse must not be missed. And so in honor of this monumental event, the Astronomy Club is working on a schedule allowing a break in classes to observe the eclipse.

With frequent meetings and upgrades to the Long Mountain Telescope, the club is stronger than ever and will be prepared for the rare phenomenon in August. Preparation for the solar eclipse will include setting up smaller telescopes for viewing and a brief lesson on what a solar eclipse is. If you do not want

to wait to learn about this event, or if you have questions that go beyond eclipses, then the Astronomy Club is right for you. The club is not only working to provide the optimal eclipse experience, but to improve the understanding of the cosmos at MBA overall.

The complexity of the universe might seem daunting, but as Neil deGrasse Tyson says, "Those who see the cosmic perspective as a

depressing outlook, they really need to reassess how they

think about the world. Because when I look up in the universe, I know I'm small but I'm also big. I'm big because I'm connected to the universe, and the universe is connected to me."

Whether you understand the eclipse or not, it will still provide you with one of the most spectacular views of your life. Dr. Dickens claims that the eclipse triggers innate reactions in all animals, including humans, that will cause fear along with amazement. It purports to be an experience like no other—and it will occur quickly. If not seen this August, you may have to wait another few centuries before



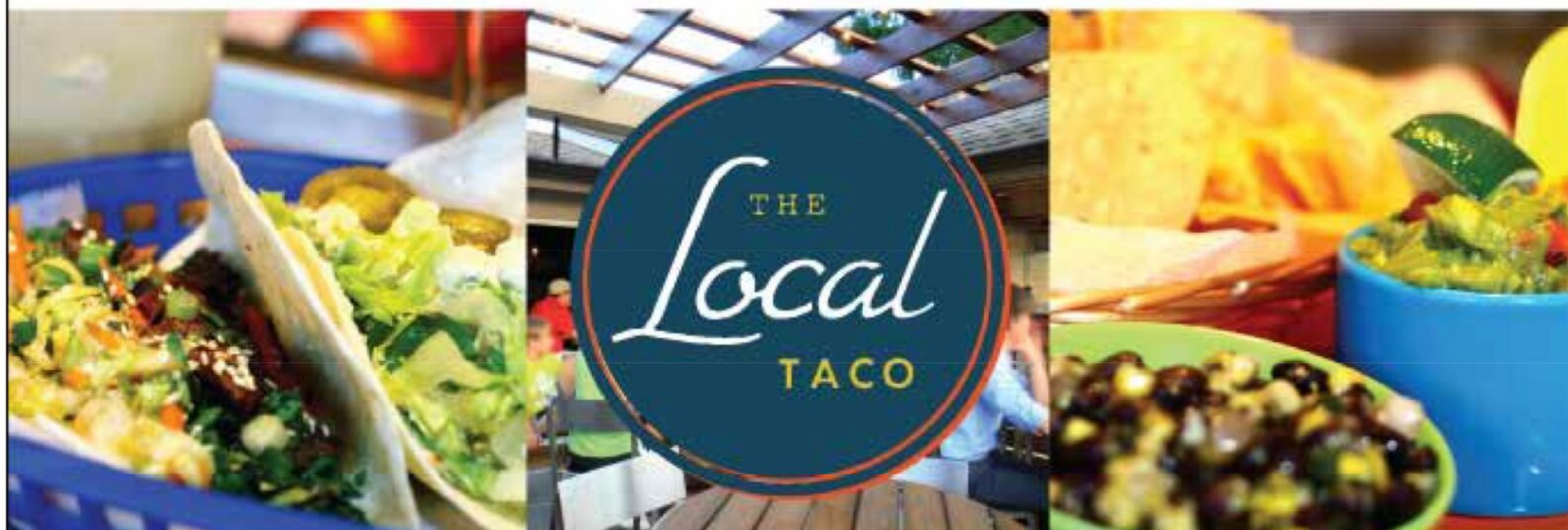
**ECLIPSE:** The moon obscures the sun in an interstellar event whose infrequency is proportional to the wonder it evokes in onlookers around the world.

another eclipse sweeps over Nashville, so make sure you are ready to bask in the glory of this event.

Neil deGrasse Tyson has said, "everyone should have their mind blown once a day." Many people do not have an interest in the universe and do not meet this requirement. The eclipse provides an optimal opportunity to have your mind blown. All you have to do is look up.



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CATERING

SPECIAL EVENTS

# Frigon Takes China

By Ben Frigon  
*International Man of Mystery*

Two weeks ago the author went to China with Dr Lech and Asher. Here are a few observations.

## I. DR LECH IS THE MOST INTERESTING MAN IN THE WORLD

I sat on a plane with Dr Lech for a total of 40 or so hours, and I heard his entire life story. Dr Lech grew up in Western Pennsylvania and joined the Air Force out of high school, where he served in support of Desert Storm as a codebreaker and received a degree in military science. He then enrolled at Penn State, where he took so many credit hours that they gave him two separate undergraduate degrees, one in government and the other in religious studies. He subsequently moved to Nashville and got degrees from Vanderbilt in Theology and Education, and is now pursuing a Masters in Government from Harvard. He currently holds six degrees.

Some of the jobs Dr. Lech has worked include city planner, amateur boxer, law firm librarian, chess coach, ACT coach, private investigator, Air Force intelligence operative, chef, Senate campaign volunteer, UPS delivery man, Hampton Inn accountant, and most recently, history and economics teacher.

He once knocked out a shoplifter with a milk jug. He has dated so many women that it cannot be documented

in a single article. When asked if he had any regrets in life, he quickly responded, “exactly two,” and did not further elaborate. When asked if he would pursue a seventh degree, he thoughtfully responded, “Physics. Neil deGrasse Tyson better watch out. El Doctor is coming.”

## II. THE FOOD IS INCREDIBLE

It seems more people in China actually go out to eat than people in the US. The goal of Chinese restaurants is simple: keep feeding the customer until they surrender in shameful defeat. In every restaurant we visited, the food just kept coming in huge waves as the plates piled up on the table. Any one of the plates we had as appetizers could have been an entire meal on its own. One of the best events of the entire trip was going to hot pot, where you get a huge boiling pot in which to boil different meats and vegetables brought to your table. I even tried some exotic foods, like cow stomach, cow hoof, and pig knuckle. I had absolutely no idea that the food would be so good, and multiple times I felt like I had to be rolled out the door I had eaten so much.

## III. PEOPLE DRIVE CRAZY

For those of you that have seen the latest Fast and Furious movie, the driving depicted there is about the same as a Tuesday afternoon in China. I feared for my life every time I got in a car. Drivers there have absolutely no regard for the other cars around

them. When changing lanes, instead of waiting for a space to open up, cars will just speed up and swerve in as quickly as possible. There are millions of little scooters on the road at any given time, so they weave in between cars with no regard for traffic laws. I’d say there were about 50 times where I thought we would have a head on collision with a scooter that at the last second swung to the side of us. When it’s a red light and there’s a break in traffic, cars will just run the red light as quickly as possible. There is so little space that cars mostly park on the sidewalk. One of my favorite driving moments was when one of our guides had to run in a store: our driver drove up and parked in the middle of the street. And she took her time shopping, too.

The traffic is actually not that bad, partly due to the absurdly aggressive driving, but also because cars are heavily taxed and the public transportation is immaculate. I still remember my first day back in Nashville, I drove home at about 50 mph on Woodmont. The Chinese driving techniques had definitely rubbed off on me.

## IV. THE PEOPLE ARE INCREDIBLY NICE

Our guides in both cities, Beijing and Shanghai, were kind and generous beyond a reasonable expectation. They paid for everything, took us everywhere, and went out of their ways to make sure we were

accommodated. I could not believe how well we were treated and how much effort was put into making sure we were having a good time.

There is a lot of natural competition between China and the US, which too often leads to stereotypes and misunderstandings about China by Americans. But the biggest thing that I took away from this trip was that the culture here in America, and especially in Nashville, is not too different than the culture in China. People in China love eating, hanging out with friends, watching tv, and playing video games just like people in America. They love basketball—you could have a conversation with anyone there about this NBA season. They have dreams and aspirations just like people here. There are differences, of course, but the social aspects that bind us are greater than those that divide us.

Our last day we saw the Great Wall, which made me think of the poem “Mending Wall” and brought me to a realization that the walls that we put between ourselves and other societies in the world are unnecessary. We can all find commonality in our natural human traits: our love for sports, our best foods, and our intrinsic kindness. A guest in China would be treated with the same overt respect and generosity that a guest in Nashville would, and I can attest to that firsthand.



# Big Red Athletes M



**Jack Anderson**  
Princeton University  
Baseball - Pitcher

*"I chose Princeton because it offered me the best combination of academics and athletics."*



**Micah Battle**  
Rhodes College  
Football - Wide Receiver

*"I know Rhodes puts great value on education, and looking past the next four years of my life, I know Rhodes will help me with connections and finding a career for the next forty years of my life."*



**Andrew Duffey**  
Birmingham-Southern  
College  
Soccer - Midfielder

*"I chose playing soccer at Birmingham Southern because playing a sport will be a great way to not only pass time, but also stay in shape. I think that brotherhood, specifically among teammates, is something to be cherished."*



**Montgomery Owen**  
Washington and Lee  
University  
Football - Wide Receiver



**Gabe Mendoza**  
Sewanee: The  
University of the  
South  
Lacrosse - Defense

*Sewanee was the atmosphere. Being on campus makes you appreciate how a small school forces you to make friends and become closer to everyone."*

*"I chose Washington & Lee because it gave me a great mix of athletics with academics. Also, I feel like there's a great sense of community as well as incredible post-college connections. As things narrowed down, I decided it was the best fit for me."*

# Move to Next Level



**Ty Chandler**  
The University of Tennessee

**Football - Running Back**

*"What drew me to UT was having the opportunity to stay close to home while also having the opportunity to get playing time early on in my career. The recruitment process was fun but at the same time very stressful."*



**Hudson Dobbs**  
University of Arizona  
Swimming

*"I chose Arizona because I love the head coach, and they have an incredible program."*

*Also, their pool is outside and I'm really excited about the idea of swimming outside. Bear Down!"*

**George Harwell**  
Vanderbilt University  
Tennis

*"I chose Vandy because of the combination of great academics and SEC tennis. I also loved the coaches and all the guys on the team. I chose Vandy over Alabama and Georgia Tech."*



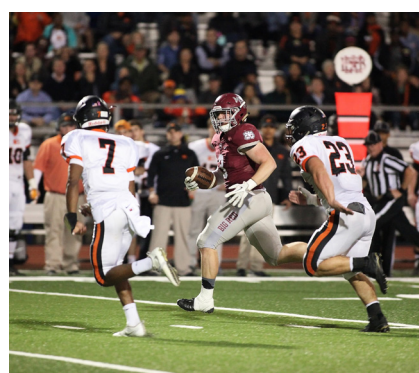
**Turner Johnson**  
Ohio Wesleyan University  
Baseball - Pitcher

*"I chose Ohio Wesleyan because it's a great school and a perfect fit for me. I was fortunate enough to meet the baseball coach, and after sending him some film, he found me a spot on the team. I'm really excited to play next year."*



**Will Peters**  
Boston College  
Cross Country/Track

*"At Boston College, I found a great fit both academically with the merit scholarship program and athletically with the young, hard-working team they are developing. Becoming an Eagle was an easy decision to make!"*



**Brett Starr**  
Vanderbilt University  
Football - Linebacker

*"I was drawn to Vandy by the city, the degree, and the SEC. I felt it was a perfect blend of high-level education and sports, all while being in one of the coolest cities in the country. I'm really excited for Vanderbilt football and its potential this upcoming season."*

# Jody Johnson: Man, Myth, Legend

By Garrett Murphy  
Staff Writer

You may think of Jody Johnson as a faculty member at MBA, as a friend, or perhaps as the Dos Equis Man. As Gordon Pollock says “If there are two words that describes Mr. Johnson, they’re Renaissance Man.”

Mr. Johnson grew up in Nashville, as both of his parents were from Tennessee. He attended public school from kindergarten through fourth grade, then went to Franklin Road Academy for fifth and sixth, before coming to MBA in seventh.

Mr. Johnson describes his time at MBA the way a current student might: “There were great and easy aspects in attending MBA, and then there were more difficult ones. Coming from a public school education, it was hard academically for me at first. I had to try a bunch of different things before I ended up finding my sweet spot.”

As current students know, it takes time to find out where one really fits in at MBA, whether in athletics, the arts, service, etc. Mr. Johnson experimented with many extracurricular activities. He started off playing football in seventh grade, describing himself as “a victim of questionable coaching.” As a result of the coaches failing to identify his obvious lack true potential, he decided that “the coaches didn’t deserve my natural gifts,” and joined the tennis team under Coach Posten. Mr. Johnson lettered as a varsity tennis player his freshman and sophomore years. Then Coach Lanier begged for his pure athleticism (as well as his on demand and timely aggressive behavior) to be brought to the soccer field. Mr. Johnson decided to play soccer his junior and senior years at MBA.

Perhaps what was most impressive was not Mr. Johnson’s athleticism, but his self-proclaimed prowess as a ladies’ man. Mr. Johnson stole many hearts as a high schooler. His natural charm and demeanor resulted in his being election as a male cheerleader at MBA, a coveted position at that time. He was even the team’s captain. Mr. Johnson explained,

“the female cheerleaders really wanted me to be a cheerleader, so they could see me more, and you know me, I’m a man of the people.” Sadly, his cheerleading career did not last long, as he was asked to resign his position on the squad (likely due to a failed tumbling routine), and male cheerleading at MBA was soon disbanded.

After graduating from MBA, Mr. Johnson decided to follow the footsteps of both of his parents and attend Vanderbilt University. He excelled at mathematics and decided to pursue it as a major at Vanderbilt. After graduating from Vanderbilt, he took his talents to business school at Georgia State University, obtaining his masters in Actuarial Science, a very specific degree that focusing on insurance, pensions, and mathematics.

Using his Master’s degree, Mr. Johnson worked in business for twenty-five years as an actuarial consultant. He first worked at a firm called Bryan Pendleton Swats & Mcallister for thirteen years, ultimately becoming partner. The partners then sold their company to Wells Fargo. He continued to working at Wells Fargo for another eight years until he left to work at two different firms, Hewitt Associates and Aon Consulting.

In 2012, he left the field completely. “After 25 years working at these firms,” Johnson said, “doing the same thing, crunching numbers, I started to lose my mind. That actually led to my coming to work at MBA in the spring of 2012.”

Wanting to try something new and because his sons Wilson and Stephen were attending MBA, Mr. Johnson sent Mr. Gioia a note requesting a job, suggesting that he work in finance at MBA. However, Mr. Gioia, recognizing that Mr. Johnson was a development officer trapped in a body of an actuary, recommended that Mr. Johnson work in the alumni and development office, to focus on his people



**SIGNING DAY:** Mr. Jody Johnson flashes signs with seniors Micah Battle and Ty Chandler

skills instead of his financial aptitude.

Mr. Johnson looks back on Mr. Gioia’s decision as one that really helped him find his passion as well as producing some irony. “It’s a little ironic that I ended up working on the top floor of Ball in Development, instead of the basement of The Ball Building with Finance,” said Johnson.

Because of his work with alumni and his likeability, Mr. Johnson has created many friendships relationships that serve the MBA community well.

As for his family, Mr. Johnson married in 1991. He met his wife while working at Bryan Pendleton Swats & Mcallister. Mr. Johnson was eating at Granite Falls, and his future wife was waiting the table. “I swept her off her feet, and got free food and beverages in the process!” he said.

Mr. Johnson has been happily married for 25 years. He has four children: Wilson, Scuba Steve, Mary, and Camden Johnson. Wilson followed in the footsteps of his family, attending Vanderbilt University, Scuba Steve is a junior at Appalachian State University, and Mary and Camden both attend Harpeth Hall.

Mr. Johnson has definitely had an interesting life, but what is most fascinating is his taste in music and his hobbies. Two of his favorite singers are Carrie Underwood and Shania Twain. When asked which songs of theirs he liked the most, he quickly replied “Whose Bed Have Your Boots Been Under?”

One hobby that Mr. Johnson enjoys is exercising. His workout routine has suffered recently as he continues to recuperate from a bizarre injury he sustained at the recent state championship football game. While standing on the bench trying to hype up the crowd (once a cheerleader always a cheerleader) during the first quarter, Jeremiah Oatsvall dramatically flopped into the bench after being pushed by Connor Mulloy. Oatsvall careened into the bench, sending Mr. Johnson somersaulting through the air, who upon landing shattered his wrist and bruised his spleen. Somehow, his pride

remained intact.

A lot of people were angry at Oatsvall. Many thought he could have jumped over the bench, but he just laid into it. Mr. Johnson discusses his injury: “I shattered my wrist, and I had two surgeries. I now have a plate and ten screws in my wrist. It was just a minor flesh wound.”

Once on the path of recovery, Mr. Johnson was determined not to let this injury slow him down. He did rehab for two months and has started to exercise again. Just as he rebounded from the cheerleading mishap in high school, Mr. Johnson will no doubt rebound from this incident as well.

In addition to fitness, Mr. Johnson loves to travel. He plans to travel to South Africa this summer. He has a sister who lives in London. One of his favorite trips is an annual affair in Las Vegas with several of MBA’s coaches. His son Wilson has attended the past two years, and Austin Rolfe and son Stephen are signed up for this year’s trip, as they have both now reached the legal threshold. As for further stories of Mr. Johnson’s adventures in Las Vegas? “What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas.”

Mr. Johnson has contributed so much to the MBA community and to the people around him. Mr. Johnson has a way of bringing an energetic attitude wherever he goes. His upbeat and genuine personality allows him to make people feel truly appreciated and loved. If you see Mr. Johnson in the halls at MBA, stop and converse with him. If you have free time, stop by his office on the third floor of Ball. Mr. Johnson is the type of person that you will want to stay connected with for life. He has so many stories to tell and is always willing to listen to your problems and make them his own.

Cheers to the “Dos Equis Man,” the Renaissance man, and an invaluable member of our community.

**HOW IT’S DONE:** Mr. Johnson suggests that President Trump work on eye contact.



# A Lad among the Plaid: A Day at Harpeth Hall

By Peter Taylor  
Editor-in-Chief

The Hill. Conjure images of lanky boys wearing polo shirts and carrying red LL Beans practically bursting at the zippers. These boys have been told since they began at MBA that they attend the most challenging, rigorous, and rewarding school in the state of Tennessee. Most have accepted this truism as definite and immutable.

With such an acceptance often comes a tendency to disregard or even belittle other schools in the vicinity. Few at MBA would dispute the notions of Ensworth's curricular ease or Brentwood Academy's overemphasis on athletics. If there's any school MBA students find it harder to fit in a singular condemnatory box, however, it is certainly Harpeth Hall.

MBA stereotypes of Harpeth Hall run a broad gamut. Some view Harpeth Hall as a true female counterpart: a school mirroring our own that shares the same core principles and ideals and differs merely in that it educates girls and treats them as such. Others view our sister school as a poor female substitute for MBA, trying to imitate us but failing in their inferior curricula, infrastructure, or facilities, all whilst believing themselves our equals. The most pejorative word used to describe Harpeth Hall in this way would not be out of place in a conversation about Ensworth or Brentwood Academy: "daycare."

So where does Harpeth Hall really lie in this range? Should we consider them our equals, or merely our imitators, weak or poor? I decided to investigate. Thanks to the assistance of Dr. Boyd, Mrs. Hill, Harpeth Hall's academic dean, and three Harpeth Hall students, I spent a day at our sister school to see if I could uncover what permeates the Hall.

Before heading off for my day among the females, I gave myself a bit of preliminary background. Perhaps the most notable difference between MBA and Harpeth Hall rests in the schedule. Where MBA students follow the same eight period day, every day, the Honeybears only have four class periods each day, each lasting eighty minutes. This division typically brings with it fewer assignments due each day than a student at MBA might have, but carries longer class periods to sit through, and with them, longer tests.

When I arrived at The Hall that brisk Tuesday morning, I signed in at the main office and received a key card. Unlike MBA, where classrooms are spread across more than half a dozen buildings, most Harpeth Hall high school classes take place in one large building. Different grade levels hang out and study during down time in their "pods"—save the seniors, who spend much of their time in the Senior House, home of the infamous "Wall," on which senior girls sign their names and their intended colleges.

The first course I attended was AP Art History, taught by none other than Robert Womack, MBA class of 2000 and son of our own Jim Womack. After my incredible experience taking the course at our school, I had high expectations for Harpeth Hall's

counterpart. They were far exceeded. I lost myself in the half-lecture and half-discussion about various pieces of contemporary art, and I brought back several unique insights to my own class. The girls impressed me with their incisive questions and thoughtful remarks, and I left the room wishing I could go back the next day.

Next up was AP Physics I, taught by a charming young woman named Dr. Chamberlain. She began the period with an analysis of some of Einstein's equations in a ploy meant to scare me with their complexity, as my friends later told me. The focus then quickly shifted to a more familiar topic: construction and understanding of basic circuits. We initially tackled it from a conceptual angle, considering various scenarios and their outcomes, before Dr. Chamberlain tasked us with constructing and comparing various circuits using lab equipment.

Because of the block schedule, Harpeth Hall lacks the formalized lab period that we have once a week. In their case, the students perform a formal lab typically only once per unit, where we might submit several, but they engage in "hands-on activities" generally every other class, according to Dr. Chamberlain. Though they may lack the systematic rigor of our weekly experiments, the Harpeth Hall girls are still engaging extensively with practical applications of science.

Next came Break, a twenty minute pause between the second and third class periods where girls spend time studying, catching up and getting ahead on work, or just socializing and letting off steam. Unlike our own break, which is often jam-packed with meetings or events, theirs is truly time to be used as the girls see fit.

If I expected a lot from Mr. Womack, I expected even more from Mrs. Lemon, Harpeth Hall's beloved AP English Literature teacher, of whom all of my friends had given glowing appraisals. I went in slightly skeptical, having seen my friends and my sister's reading material over the past couple years and questioning the quality of an English Department that avoids Dickens in its British Literature survey and requires a graphic novelization of *The Odyssey* in place of the real epic.

Instead of a shallow and repetitive discussion, however, I took part in analyses of Frost's "The Pasture" and Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, the liveliness of which reminded me of Dr. Tarkington's



**HONEYBEAR NATION:** Peter Taylor '17, Editor in Chief of The Bell Ringer, donning a Varsity Track jacket next to three of his female friends.

leading me and my friends through "Bartleby the Scrivener," or Mr. Kelly's debates about whether God was a bully in *Paradise Lost*. Mrs. Lemon exuded an obvious and infectious passion throughout the period, and I left the classroom excited about the power of literature.

Lunch was a similarly Sage-led affair, but though the quality of their food is similar to ours', the variety is more limited. MBA's crowded serving area also feels like a vast cavern compared to that of Harpeth Hall.

After lunch comes the forty-minute X Block, the more direct analogue to MBA's 9:40-10:10 break. Advisory and assemblies are each held once per seven-day rotation, but otherwise X Block is the time for extracurricular meetings or other structured programs outside of class. My day happened to be an assembly day, and I listened to three very entertaining speeches by seniors among several announcements, including the revealing of next year's All-School Read: *The Boys in the Boat*.

In the co-existence of X Block and break lies a key equilibrium that I think we lose sometimes at MBA, where we aren't always able to set aside enough time among the daily grind both to relax and to broaden ourselves beyond our schoolwork. Too often it comes down to one or the other. Our schoolwork and the diligence it instills may thrive as a result, but we can sometimes lose sight of what might lie beyond our day-to-day mastery of material.

Several of my friends had warned me about the sheer terror I would experience in Polly Linden's Calculus BC class, so I

was at least somewhat mentally prepared for the forty minute quiz she placed in front of me, on which I was prompted to write out various mathematical formulas and figures. I was able to hold my own after my tutelage under the great Mr. Bill Compton, but it was quite evident through the quiz and the problems we worked afterwards that the rigor and depth of her course, and the aptitude of her students, were as impressive as anything done in Ball Building third period.

By the end of my day at Harpeth Hall, I was thoroughly impressed with what I had taken part in. I discussed differences between our schools with my friend Sterling Akers, HH '17, who holds MBA in high regard.

"Harpeth Hall allows you a little more flexibility," she said. "MBA teaches you by beating you down, testing your limits to the extreme to see what you can do."

That being said, Harpeth Hall still manages to instill in its students a love of learning and passion for discussion that we at MBA sometimes lack on the day-to-day when we're so caught up in working hard to make the grades. Is that the difference between genders? Between institutional approaches? Between classes and their teachers?

None of the above. Students at both schools may sometimes dismiss the other out of respectful acknowledgement of their own school's approach or otherwise mere habit, but there isn't a unique formula for excellence. A good education is a good education, and the best can be found no matter whether you're wearing khakis or a plaid skirt.

# Capizzi's Corner:

## Joey Bada\$\$ and Kendrick Lamar

By Jack Capizzi  
Entertainment Editor

On April 7th, Joey Bada\$\$ released his second full-length studio album, *All-Amerikkan Bada\$\$*. Following the success of his first project, *Before the Money*, Joey became one of the most closely watched young rappers of a new generation. Much of the attention he has received comes as a result of the maturity, professionalism, and quality of his music at such a young age of twenty-two. In *All-Amerikkan Bada\$\$*, the New York rapper maintains his maturity and tact while delivering a project that contains topics of political importance as well as personal depth.

The first half of *AABA* is Joey's self-proclaimed "Hero's Side." These songs feature laid-back beats that have been absent on much of his previous work. Regardless of the peacefulness of their tone, the songs still contain some of the most politically-fueled verses of the album, expressing the rapper's distrust in America, from his problems with the police department to, unsurprisingly, the government. On the album's third track, "Temptation," Joey takes time to continue a theme from *Before the Money* in which he described some of the problems he saw in his own neighborhood as he grew up, stating, "Now everybody got vices/ But they wouldn't know what good advice is/ Until they leave 'em lifeless."

While Joey chooses to peacefully describe his dissatisfaction with current events in the first half of the album, he displays a reluctance to attack his songs

with the same vigor that brought him so much attention on BTM. That reluctance is thrown away once Joey reaches the second half of the album, the "Villainous Side." On the chorus of "Rockabye Baby," Joey reflects the shift in the tone of the album to a more crazed, energetic approach: "Feel the surge through my veins whin I flow/ Mentally, I can never be controlled."

If "Rockabye Baby" is an intro to the "Villainous" side of the tracklist, "Ring the Alarm" is the centerpiece. With a beat that sounds like a fusing-together of classic horror movie soundtracks, Joey raps in a similarly haunting and ominous tone. Not only is this one of the most unique songs of the album - it also features some of the best lines that would impress even the most astute MBA English Teachers: "It's the double entendre monster/ Takin' haunted constant trips through your conscious / The causes of the coffin is the broken clauses."

*All Amerikkan Bada\$\$* is a statement album from Joey Bada\$\$, fusing themes from social inequality to the quality (or lack thereof) of lyricism in the music industry, Joey never misses a beat. The young talent here delivers a mature collection of tracks that easily stands out against today's current backdrop of young, one-hit, oddly dressed and interestingly hairstyled "musicians." *AABA* is not only a breath of fresh air, but a reminder of the quality that remains at such a young stage in artists



**KENDRICK:** Rapper Kendrick Lamar looking contemplatively, considering the elements of his next project.

such as Joey Bada\$\$.

\*\*\*

*Damn.*, the fifth studio album from Kendrick Lamar, released on Good Friday, cements Kendrick Lamar's name at the top of the pantheon of modern rappers. Ditching the thematic, narrative style of his two previous projects, *good kid*, *m.A.A.d city* and *To Pimp a Butterfly*, Lamar turns his lyrics on himself, delivering his most introspective album to date. Still diehard fans need not lament - *Damn.* is not without the sharp commentary central to every Lamar project.

Kendrick begins *Damn.* with a distorted Fox News audio clip which criticized his performance of the song "Alright" at the 2015 BET awards. His criticism of the news outlet continues in the next series of tracks such as the song "YAH," in which Lamar states, "Interviews wanna know my thoughts and opinions/ Fox News wanna use my name for percentage." While his criticism of Fox News is a telling—if somewhat comical—theme throughout *Damn.*, the criticism certainly echoes a larger theme, which is Lamar's frustration with current views of his music and the people he represents. This is an element to Lamar's music he has never shied away from, and he certainly doesn't hesitate to face the powers-that-be on *Damn.*

In its instrumental make-up, *Damn.* is a tale of two albums. Kendrick draws on the successes of his

previous projects, developing some songs that have the fast-paced spitting of quick, intricate rhymes over heavily bass-infused beats, and some that draw on a slower, more melodic tone. Songs like "DNA" and the pre-released "HUMBLE" resonate with such songs from Kendrick as "m.A.A.d city" and "Backseat Freestyle." These songs bring so much to *Damn.* as they perfectly balance energy and lyricism to form unforgettable tracks. The slower side of the album, however, houses Lamar's true brilliance as a creator. "Fear," the album's longest and most complex track, features a series of recollections from Kendrick of times when he was on the brink of collapse. The sequences feature voicemails from his cousin, offers of gang violence and a life in the underground of Compton, and the possibility of not being able to live up to the fame he has garnered now at the age of twenty-nine.



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## An enemy approaches! What will you do?



▶ Study

▶ Senior Slide

▶ Clutch up last minute

▶ GIT GUD!!!

# Kong: Brilliant Action Packed Popcorn Flip

By Harrison Kidd  
Staff Writer

When *Kong: Skull Island* was first advertised, movie buffs everywhere cringed in disgust and worry. By the time the movie was released, those brave enough to give the movie a fighting chance may easily have been pleasantly surprised.

Without a doubt, *Skull Island* is not a perfect movie. But the movie managed to awe with surprisingly solid acting and amazing CGI. One thing many

**SKULL ISLAND:** King Kong, an archetype of 20th century culture, rising from the distance above a spread of mountains. .



movie buffs have agreed *Kong* did right is the fact that they created original monsters. Whether giant ants, bamboo spiders, krakens, sword pterodactyl things, tree bugs, or “Skull crawlers,” *Skull Island* is crawling with epic monsters.

Also original to the film is the presentation of the native tribe that inhabits the island, sporting beautiful tattoos and well-designed domiciles. All of the effects in the movie are gorgeous. Clearly a lot of time was spent on the cinematography, which

many action cult classic movies do not bother with these days.

Many may find the acting flimsy. For whatever reason, most of the veteran actors—John Goodman, Samuel L. Jackson—are not at all on their game. One other veteran delivers, however: John C. Reilly.

Although Reilly usually features in comedic films, he plays a mostly serious role with bravado and prowess. The budding actors of the cast, Brie Larson and Tom Hiddleston, held their own with aplomb. Although both have acted in other movies with mixed results, the two actors seem to be coming out of their shells and improving their skills, as shown by their wonderful performances in this blockbuster.

Although the plot of *Skull Island* is a bit lacking, and the producers appear to be grabbing at tendrils they never had in the first place, audiences may forgive this fact because of the unique setting, conception, and cinematography.

The movie takes place in the Vietnam War era, creating explosive scenes featuring automatic weapons and battle-hungry soldiers, along with the sorrows that come from the fallout.

*Kong: Skull Island* is almost an entirely different movie than the one still airing currently. The movie originally had a concept lacking a fresh, new script, and instead borrowed off of earlier successes. The original script had the setting in 1917, and lacked the originality of inventive monsters and conflicting character goals. However, with the creativity of filmmaker Jordan Vogt-Roberts (creator of *Kings of*

*Summer*), the final script came to be an entirely different entity.

The Kong team convinced Vogt-Roberts to create the film and showed him the script to go with it. He downright rejected it, saying it lacked the freshness a good monster movie would need. What he ended up proposing to the team was “*Apocalypse Now* with monsters.”

In a SlashFilm.com interview, Vogt-Roberts further explained his reasoning for the Vietnam setting, saying, “in the ’70s and the late ’60s, [there were] political riots and racial revolutions and distrust of the government, and it’s like a complete mirror of what’s happening right now... right now, our entire generation is people with one foot in the old guard and one foot in the new guard, uncertain of how to move forward. As it was then, too. So I love the idea of taking these like disillusioned, confused people and thrusting them into like the unknown and confronting them with gods and myths.”

The Kong team accepted Vogt-Roberts’ bold proposal, and the movie gradually developed into what many audiences believe to be what could become known as one of the best modern Action movies.

## Thornton Praises Expected Flop

By Cade Thornton  
Staff Writer

*Going Out in Style* had many entering theaters everywhere with low expectations, mostly due to the film’s substantially low media coverage and audiences having to endure a preview of the bottomless pit of unfunny jokes — one involved Amy Schumer talking about her obscure upcoming movie that will probably flop hilariously. Given its underwhelming promotion, what came from viewing *Going Out in Style* was very surprising.

Actors Morgan Freeman, Joey King, Michael Caine, and Alan Arkin, give a great effort throughout, despite some shoddy script choices. While I could really believe the performances, that the characters were being forced from their homes by bankers because they have lost their jobs and cannot pay their rent, their attempt to rob a bank really didn’t seem believable to me, as every one of the actors is a multi-millionaire in reality. The sub-plot involving Michael Caine’s character and his granddaughter is barely elaborated on despite being given loads of time in the movie.

Now onto why the movie was actually decent and definitely worth

your time. This film is anything but serious, and it knows it. How could three, 60-70 year olds rob a bank, much less get the motivation to do so? The movie offers no answer, because it doesn’t need one. The absolute absurdity of it all is what propels the narrative forward. At one point, a character with Alzheimer’s at a carnival says, “CLOSED: We’re out of cocaine” while selling cotton candy. Other things...who in the right mind would rob a grocery store of chicken breast, and plan to get away in a motor cart? Who in their right mind would grab a gun, and miss all seven shots at their target? Who in their right mind would watch *The Bachelor* and be entertained? Only this movie has the answer: three old men going out in style.

Not only is the movie humorous in itself; other little things slid in make it all the more enjoyable. For example, the possibility of seeing Morgan Freeman smoke marijuana in a limousine, or seeing Keenan



**STAYING ALIVE:** Michael Caine, Morgan Freeman, and Alan Arkin jogging a little past their primes.

Thompson in anything that is not *Saturday Night Live*, or seeing two 70 year-olds fall in love, or believing that “I want more pie” could be a serious motivation to rob a bank—all are featured in *Going Out in Style*. All the added humor really pushes the movie over the edge for the audience, allowing them to forget any initial bias they may have had going into it. Honestly, there may be a lot of negative things to say about the movie, pacing-wise, script-wise, and so forth, but because of the movie’s

relatively low budget, its very weak advertising campaign, and its overall ridiculousness, it is able to deliver.

It’s enjoyable. It’s funny. That’s all there is to it. Unless you want to go see *Boss Baby*, *The Fate of the Furious*, *The Smurfs*, or some other horrendous excuse for entertainment, *Going Out in Style*, should top your list because, just like the premise of the movie, you won’t get to see these legendary actors for very much longer.

# Graham Analyzes Raiders' Move

By John Raulston Graham  
Staff Writer

San Francisco. Oakland. Los Angeles. Oakland again. And Las Vegas? The Raiders have had a volatile history of moves, stadiums, coaches, and players. However, over the last couple of years, it seems finally the whole franchise is coming together after their first playoff appearance in fourteen years.

Currently, the Raiders play in probably the worst venue of in the whole of the NFL, the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum. Built in 1966, it harnesses all of the aspects of a standard concrete bowl stadium. What's more, they have to share the home with the Oakland Athletics, the Oakland MLB franchise.

Mark Davis, owner of the franchise, threatened a move from Oakland without a new stadium for the Raiders to be built, but most of these claims were bogus. When Davis filed for the move to Las Vegas, it was seen by many in the NFL community as another threat to summon a reaction from the Oakland community. But Davis was clearly serious about the move. When the vote came before the NFL owners commission, they voted thirty-one to one to approve the move.

Although the Raiders previously tried to move to Los Angeles and be in joint ownership of the Carson stadium with the Chargers, the project was defeated by the Ram's rival project in Inglewood. After losing their original project, with the main premise of creating

an entertainment district around the stadium, the Raiders decided to move to the entertainment capital of the world across Interstate 15 from the famous Las Vegas Strip.

Many people have voiced different opinions about the move to Las Vegas. Many feared young players in the Las Vegas environment, but the franchise, whose mantra under former owner, Al Davis, was "just win, baby," took little heed to these concerns, and continues not to care about any environment the players would be put in order to gain a new stadium. Their goal is to inject hope of more success and a cutting edge, well-built franchise into one that has been seemingly dejected. There have been genuine concerns for the fan base of the Raiders, but the new fan base in Las Vegas has greatly embraced the move, as they recently acquired rights to have the NHL expansion team, the Golden Knights. However, the Raiders have remained resolute they will not lose any fans from Oakland, who have been enthusiastic despite the conditions in the Oakland Coliseum.

As for the stadium itself, Mark Davis and the Raiders organization recruited world famous sports architect David Manica and his Kansas City firm, which has an impressive portfolio, including the original Carson project, Golden State's new Chase Center, and the VTB arena in Moscow. The design features a sleek, black metal facade with hints of silver. The stadium will offer a 360-degree view of a scoreboard, an operable glass end wall that offers

views into downtown Las Vegas, a natural grass field, a flaming caldron in honor of former owner Al Davis, and many extensive levels of suites and clubs. The budget for the Raiders' new stadium currently stands at \$1.9 billion and is expected to be finished in

time to open for the 2020 NFL season. The Raiders have completely committed to the move to Las Vegas because they are bringing \$500 million of their own money to the table, according to ESPN.

The Raiders organization truly believes in the new model for the franchise's future. They believe that the organization can retain the enthusiastic fan base that they have accumulated in Oakland and gain many more fans in Las Vegas, which has been an untapped sports market until the recent acquisition of an NHL team through the lure of



20/20 VISION: Raiders open their eyes to a new stadium

a shiny new stadium. Although many Oakland fans have sworn not to cheer for the team after the Las Vegas move, the team is only beginning to pick up momentum both to win and to become a more stable and reliably successful franchise in the future.



# Finding Their Identity:

## Lax Bounces Back from Midseason Struggles

By Palmer Thombs  
Assistant Sports Editors

The second half of the lacrosse season has brought various challenges for the MBA Big Red. Since the last update, MBA is 4-2, securing the East/Middle Region of TSLA's Division 1, but have struggled with nagging injuries and their team identity along the way. Following the Big Red's close loss to archrival Memphis University School, MBA took on Cathedral High School. The Indiana lacrosse power defeated the Big Red in a game played through consistent rainfall. The sloppy conditions led to sloppy play and a 7-12 MBA loss.

But the following week brought excitement back to the team after defeating state semifinalist Christian Brothers 13-8. The Big Red were led to victory by scoring from juniors Zach Smith and Gordon Pollock with three goals each. MBA had two more impressive outings following the win over the Purple Wave, defeating the Franklin Rebels 16-8 and the Baylor Red Raiders 14-2.

Younger inexperienced players got valuable time against Franklin, and junior attackman Harrison Graves came alive against the Red Raiders with five points. It looked as if the Big Red had returned to the form everyone expected to see, a powerful offense to dominate inferior opponents and a strong defense to keep MBA in tight games with the better teams on the Big Red's schedule.

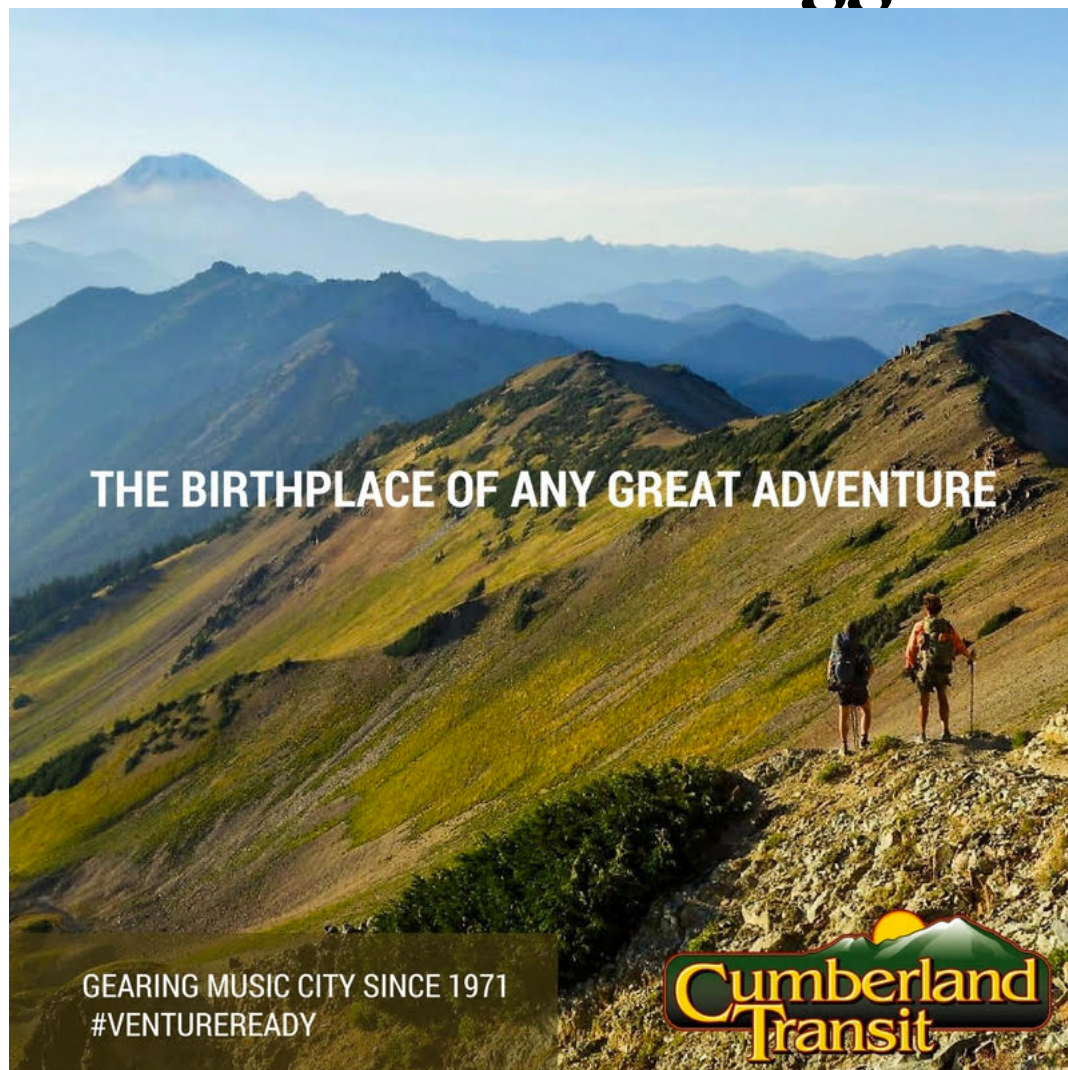
This expectation was not the case as a crisis came about during MBA's mid-week battle with Ensworth. The Tigers, an opponent whom the Big Red are more talented than, mounted a second half comeback and defeated MBA 7-8 in

overtime. The Big Red failed to score in the second half of play despite dominating at the faceoff. It was time for the team to find their true identity. What would they do in the face of adversity? Would they shy away or step up to the challenge?

The Big Red responded to these struggles with a region 10-5 win over Ravenwood. On MBA's senior night at Frank Andrews Field, they came out of the gate hot and put the Raptors away early. An impressive outing from junior attackman Fenner Pollock, who managed the game with his 2 goals and 3 assists, led the Big Red to victory.

But the win over the Raptors was not the highlight of the week for MBA. They travelled down to Chattanooga to take on the McCallie Blue Tornado in a rematch of two nail biters from the 2016 season. McCallie was more talented than the Big Red on paper with 5 Division One commits and a myriad of other talented players, but MBA was up for the challenge.

The Big Red got out to a 3-0 lead before McCallie tied the match. The game, tied at the end of each the first, second, and third quarters, was a back and forth battle, but an 8-0 run to finish the game gave the Big Red a dominant 14-9 victory. Gordon Pollock led the way for MBA with 3 goals and 2 assists to go along with Zach Smith's 3 goals and 1 assist.



Senior captain Jacob Kovick said, "We are feeling good going into the playoffs because of these last two big wins. We had a bit of a rough patch in the middle of the season, but we now have some momentum and we are starting to find and buy into our team identity."

Senior defenseman Addison Smith added, "Now that we have some momentum, we are looking to make a run and finish the year strong." MBA

wraps up the regular season at 10-7 and goes into the playoffs with the number two overall seed. The team identity found by the Big Red is one they hope can lead them on a run similar to that of last season's State Championship appearance. But an appearance is not all this team wants. Gordon Pollock said, "We feel like if we play our best, we can achieve our goal of winning the State Championship."

CREW: The seniors of the Big Red Lacrosse team



# Big Red Baseball Bounces Back

By Ben Coulthard  
Sports Editor

After an underachieving and disappointing 2016 season, the Big Red baseball team decided early that last year was one in the books and also one that would not be repeated. From preseason workouts and into the preseason scrimmages, it was evident from the beginning the Big Red were determined to change the culture of the baseball program.

Following a series of tune-up games against Cookeville, Goodpasture, Hendersonville, and Brentwood, MBA opened their season against Davidson Academy. After a loss against Davidson the year before, the team was excited to try and erase the sour taste. Senior Jack Anderson led the way, pitching five strong innings and keeping the Davidson bats at bay, allowing only four hits and no runs. The Big Red reversed the result from the year before winning the season opener 6-1.

Even with only having played one game in the season, the team traveled to Orlando for Spring Break to play in the Central Florida Spring Break Slam against good competition. The 1-4 record over Spring Break was reflective of the high quality of play, with losses of 12-6 to Apopka (FL), 5-4 to Dr. Phillips (FL), 4-1 to perennial

powerhouse First Academy (FL), and 7-6 to Key West (FL), as well as a 5-3 win over University (FL), headlined by Will Hansen's complete game pitching performance. Every one of these games had opportunities for the Big Red to win, but rather than focus on the negatives, the Big Red took positives from the trip. Many of the pitchers showed potential on the mound, the hitting showed dramatic improvement, and everyone realized that once an entire game of good pitching, hitting, and fielding was put together, the Big Red would be in a good position to win.

The Big Red returned from Orlando to Nashville for their first region series against Baylor School. The entire series was an instant classic, consisting of three games and 31 innings being played in just over 24 hours. The first game spanned two days, starting Friday afternoon and ending around lunchtime on Saturday. The majority of the scoring occurred Friday before the game had to be called for darkness, tied 3-3. The Big Red had multiple chances, with bases loaded with less than two outs numerous times, after the restart on Saturday, but never found a way to score any runs. In the top of the 17th inning, Baylor scored a run on a hit by pitch, and things looked bleak for the Big Red, having not scored since the day before. However, with a never-say-die attitude, the Big

Red scored two runs off a Ty Allen single to win the game. However, celebration was short-lived, as two more games had to be played, as well as the threat of having to finish in time to be prepared for MBA prom. In the second game, the Big Red found themselves down once again going into the final inning, but the Big Red scraped across the final run once again to win 7-6 on a Miller Freeman walk-off single. While the third game brought a loss, the Big Red were able to win 2 of 3 on little rest in a big series.

MBA took on rivals Brentwood Academy and Ensworth in their next two series, and even though they lost both series, the Big Red were able to salvage games in each series in more competitive games. Once again, the Big Red found themselves down 7-3 in a game against BA going into the 6th inning. Even though BA had controlled the game with solid pitching and timely hits, the Big Red took advantage of a pitching change late in the game to score one run in the sixth inning and three runs in the seventh inning to tie the



LONE WOLF: "In omnia paratus"- "ready for everything"

game 7-7 and send it to extra innings. Ty Allen came through clutch and hit a two run double off the "Big Red Monster" in left field in the 8th inning to bring home the game-winning run.

Even after dropping series against McCallie and Father Ryan, the Big Red was undeterred in its ultimate goal. As Coach Anderson said early in the season, "There are three series: One from preseason to the end of spring break, another from the spring break trip until the end of the regular season, and finally, the playoffs." The goal of the Big Red is to peak right at the beginning of the playoffs. While the record might not jump out at opponents, the team knows they have the ability to take two of three from anybody to advance to the Final Four in Murfreesboro.

## Big Red Runners "on Track" to Win State

By Matthew Kaplan  
Staff Writer

The MBA Track team has had a phenomenal start to the season. The team has worked fearlessly through hot, cold, and rain from as early as the depths of winter cold in January. Long jump competitors have been practicing multiple days a week all semester, and distance runners have been running organized workouts all year as well.

The team's two most competitive meets thus far have included the Doug Hall Relays and the city championship. The Doug Hall Relays consisted of 15 teams and is widely known as the biggest meet, in terms of participants, in the state of Tennessee. This year, rain and lightning showered the great event and delayed, eventually canceling, the meet altogether. Nevertheless, in the races that did occur, MBA tallied 64 points, enough for an impressive first place finish.

The discus relay team made up of Dan Parks, Ben Frigon, and Wes Hall won the discus relay championship, with Dan Parks finishing first individually. The distance medley relay team of Will Peters, Graham Ragsdale, Warner Lamar, and Alden Ferguson won the medley relay championship. Additionally, senior Will Peters was named the recipient of the Doug Hall

Relays scholarship competition for success in athletics, academic achievements, and extracurricular activities.

Coach Pippin said of the meet, "MBA competed confidently on Saturday in spite of the rainy and stormy weather. We had very good performances from many athletes and we're proud of their hard work and determination. Unfortunately, the meet was stopped early due to lightning, so many of the races we expected to do well in were not run. When the meet was stopped, we were in the lead and therefore named the champions this year." Coach Pippin also noted the impressive performances of Warner Lamar in the pole vault, shot put, and distance medley relay, and Mitarius Boyd in the shuttle hurdle relay. Without a doubt, the Big Red displayed their abilities to compete at a high level in their performance at the Doug Hall.

Coach Russ commented on the state of the team this season, "The thing that sticks out the most to me at this point is the pleasant surprise contributions we are getting from several guys." Coach Russ went on to point out the contribution of several individuals including Ty Chandler, who considered not participating this year but has had



GRIND: Will Peters faces tough competition against a runner from Brentwood Academy.

an enormous effect on the sprinting races, being the fastest sprinter in MBA history. He also mentioned senior Dylan O'Donnell, who, being new to track, has contributed to the team's success in the high jump and 200/400. Warner Lamar has competed in the 400 this year, in addition to the success he's achieved in pole vaulting. Finally, Coach Russ described the contribution of junior McLain Portis, of whom Coach Russ stated, "We knew McLain Portis could jump, but he is contributing in the sprints as well." Finally, Coach Russ

pointed out that while the team has had success early, we have more races to compete in to establish what kind of team we really are and to find out how competitive we can really be.

MBA also competed in the city championship, which was capped off on Friday at McGavock High School. The squad took home first place, with races as late as 9 p.m. The team hopes to continue its success at the next few meets and carry their momentum into a run for the state championship.

# MBA Soccer Swings Hard

By Ben Coulthard  
Sports Editor

Soccer season at MBA is in full swing, headed towards the TSSAA playoffs with the last few games of the regular season scheduled for the coming weeks. The Big Red are 10-0-1 on the season, holding on tightly at the top of the D-II AA region over rivals Father Ryan and McCallie. After two straight successful seasons that culminated in back-to-back state championship appearances, the Big Red squad simply reloaded their roster even after losing key players from each of the previous seasons. Yet, the expectations within the program have not changed from their ultimate goal: returning to Murfreesboro in search of another state championship.

Many members of the team dedicated their offseasons to strength and conditioning training. The program started early with their weight training and conditioning and worked on developing strength, speed, and endurance to prepare for the trials guaranteed to be faced later in the season. While tough, the preparation has paid off quite well in the long run, made evident with statements in the early stages of the season.

The Big Red began the season with a string of games against out of conference teams. With convincing wins against Martin Luther King and Glencliff along with a hard-fought battle against CPA, the Big Red were 3-0 going into their first region game and first true test of the season against rival Brentwood Academy. The first half ended tied 0-0 after a half that saw

multiple good opportunities for goals on both sides. However, the Big Red took a 1-0 lead with 20 minutes left in the match after senior midfielder Ellis Moore broke the tie off a Henry Hylbert pass. The Big Red didn't look back from there, leading for the remainder of the game and ending the game at 1-0.

Following the exciting finish against Brentwood Academy, the Big Red steamrolled their opponents in the following three games, outscoring their opponents 18-1 with a 6-0 win over JP II, an 8-0 win over USN, and a 4-1 win over Overton. Following these three victories, MBA faced McCallie in what would prove to be the toughest match of the season to that point. After beating the Blue Tornado squad the previous two years in the state semifinals, and after the McCallie team showed up at the 2016 state finals cheering for Christian Brothers to beat the Big Red, there was no love lost between the teams. A 30-minute rain delay kept the well-anticipated matchup from starting, but once kickoff finally happened, the game started out quickly and was aggressive throughout the first half as both teams tried to set the tone early in hopes to gain any advantage. McCallie drew first blood and took a 1-0 lead into halftime, but the Big Red responded quickly after halftime with Watson Dill and Henry Hylbert scoring goals giving the Big Red a 2-1 advantage. With the lead, the Big Red kept the McCallie attack at bay until very late in the game when the Blue Tornado tied it on a late chip-in. Even in a tie, the Big Red showed just how competitively they could play against one of Tennessee's

top teams.

After the McCallie match, the Big Red traveled down to Chattanooga to take on Baylor School. All it took was an early goal off a William Porter

throw-in to put the Big Red ahead in the first half as well as the game. The Porter throw-in ended up being the only goal in the game, and the Big Red won 1-0. Senior Day followed against Ensworth. The Big Red celebrated their five seniors, William Porter, Collin Ragsdale, Ellis Moore, Dean Cheevers, and Andrew Duffey, at halftime by recognizing them for their efforts to the team throughout their MBA careers. The team sent them out with a 9-0 shutout against Ensworth for a sweet Senior Day victory.

The biggest game of the year came the following Friday against crosstown rival Father Ryan. Both teams came into the game as the top-two ranked teams in Tennessee and also as the top-five ranked teams in the nation. The game also had playoff implications on the line. The winner of the game would all but guarantee themselves the number-one seed in the East-Middle division for the playoffs. The Big Red got off to an early 2-0 lead with goals scored



**RALLY:** Three members of the Big Red soccer team regroup after a play.

off of a header by Henry Hylbert from a William Porter throw-in, as well as a Porter goal off a corner kick by Cole Deal. However, Father Ryan answered late by scoring goals with 18 and 8 minutes left in the game. It looked as if the Big Red were in for another draw against a top team until Luke Bernatavitz made a great run down the pitch to score the go-ahead and eventual game-winning goal late, putting the Big Red on top 3-2.

With a current record of 15-0-1, the Big Red soccer team has two more regular season games both at home against Ravenwood and Middle TN Fire before the playoffs start on May 13. The Big Red look once again to make a return trip to Murfreesboro in search of a state title, a goal that not only is quite attainable but also is a legitimate possibility with the skill and determination shown up to this point by the Big Red soccer team.

## MBA Tennis Tackles Tough Challenges

By Jack Smartt  
Staff Writer

The 2016-2017 MBA Tennis team is off to a hot start to begin the season. Despite battling through various injuries, the squad leads off league play with impressive victories all across the board.

Although they have had quite a successful season, one major problem the team has had has been injuries.

**SERVE:** John Morphett '17 kills a serve during practice at an indoor court.

Almost everyone on the team has been injured this season. Sims Lance thought that he had shin splints but ended up having a stress fracture on both fibias, which has caused him to miss a large portion of the season. John Morphett broke both ankles early on and missed multiple months with the injury affecting his movement on the court. Frist Allen also had an injury on his high quadriceps. Oliver Briggs, Ben Elasy, and John Spurgeon were

also out with ankle injuries. Hopefully, the team will enjoy a healthy rest of the season and will be ready to go for their state championship run.

After an accomplished season last year, the Big Red tennis team has improved and looks poised to possibly win the state championship this year. They are having one of their best seasons in recent years. They recently played Baylor, who is most likely their toughest opponent, on the way to a state championship and barely lost. The match was close and could have gone either way. Come state championship time, the Big Red could definitely win it all.

This year, the tennis team added a new coach, Coach Natalia Byrd, to the team. Coach Byrd has been a great addition in terms of instruction and drills during practice and matches. She has a great knowledge for the game of tennis due to her prior experience of playing college tennis at Belmont University.

Coach Byrd brings her drills that she learned playing tennis in college to practices with the team, helping the team to improve from last season to this season. She also led tough tennis workouts during the winter season and helped the team improve its conditioning.

Lastly, MBA tennis not only has an impressive varsity program but also has a thriving junior varsity program. The team is off to an undefeated start this year, led by captains Philip Scholer and Gibby Gibson. The veteran leadership that Philip and Gibby bring to the team is unmatched. The team is also led by Brian Graves, who enjoys leading the team in warmups and conditioning. The junior varsity team is on its way to a bright future with the talent that it has on the team and hopes to maintain this undefeated start to the season.

Make sure to come out to the Individual Regionals at Ensworth High School on May 5-6 and to show up to the state tournament coming in mid-May.



# Freshmen Finish Latin, Rejoice

By Aden Barton, Matt Kaplan, and Zach Brown  
Staff Pueris

As the year winds down to a close, the one blip left for the freshmen class and all of MBA is exams. We, of course, have been rigorously following Mrs. Stewart's exam study schedule from the Junior School. Of course, if we actually were to follow the schedule, we would have begun studying about a month ago, which is a stark contrast from the time when most people will start studying.

As exams proceed, many of us are excited to say that we have completed our MBA Latin requirement or narrowly edged out a passing grade. It's safe to say that the motivation to work has decreased and fallen to near zero, to the point where study halls are filled with octagon, random io games, and messing with **Tripper Capps**.

The fidget spinners have sparked a large following in the freshmen class. Not only have they taken over study halls, but they have also taken over classes, days, and lives to such an extent that some masters have considered these "toys" as

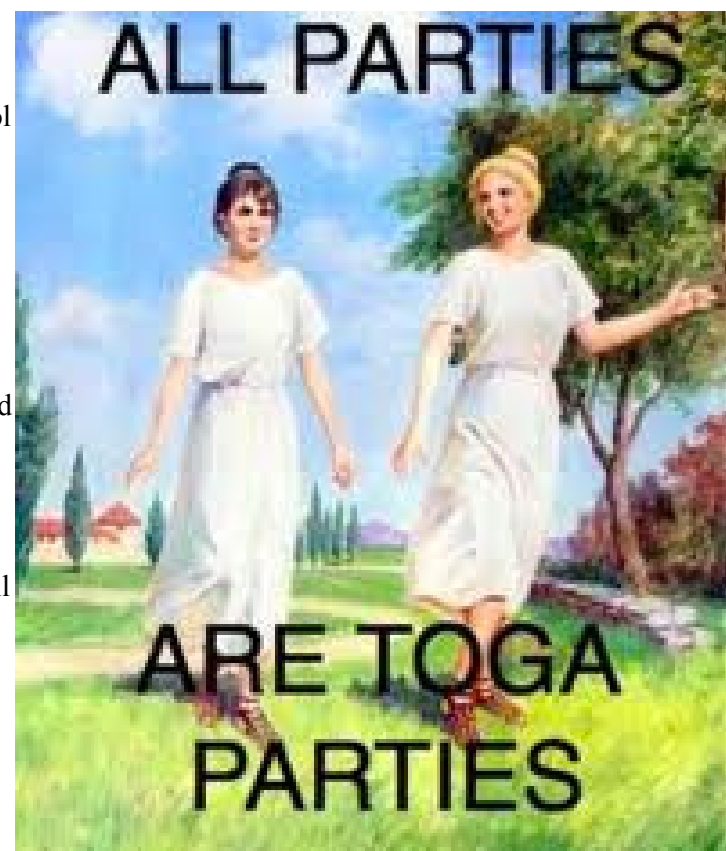
contraband. They even caused some controversy between students. **Joe** has forsaken the class and will not let anyone touch his spinners. On top of this, everyone tends to be mildly annoyed at him and **Brian Graves** primarily because they always acquire the tallies in a certain ancient medieval history class.

A continual topic of discussion in the freshmen class is the well-known biology teacher, **Mr. Carlini**. By employing new tactics such as airport level security in certain classes, he hopes to change his classes for the better. Without the company of any phones and computers, the students have created other forms of entertainment. Namely, **McGavock Cooper** brought in a large bag of rubber bands, and the students spent the entirety of a Friday class fighting each other with them.

While we near exams, we lack social news. Rumors spread, but things that people once cared about are now not discussed during the dining hall lunch (not to be confused with **Brown Payne**, who seems to like creating a certain rumor (that is a...joke?), even when no one really cares). Bonus iocus, Brown!

Lastly, the class elected officers for our sophomore school year. **Grayson Hill** faced off in the matchup of the century, battling **Tim Blaufuss** to be our el presidente. **Grayson** emerged victorious. While we will have a treasurer, vice president, and two honor council representatives for the next year, **Aden Barton**, **Sammy K**, **Matt Kaplan**, and **Harrison Hitt** seemed to have

no competition for their current jobs, automatically winning reelection and further displaying our ambitious class. The only interesting officer election was a secretary battle between **Brennan Minkoff** and **Zach Brown**. Zach emerged as our new secretary, so we



will no longer have any fun. Finally, the student council remained the same despite fierce competition, except for **Dan (salve) McGuire** snagging a spot as a representative of our class by using a famous Mr. Deutsch quote.

# Sophomores Upgrade to Three Writers

By Sam Dugan  
Staff Sophomore

The year is wrapping up for the 2019 class, and not much has changed. We continue to dominate on the athletic fields. The JV lacrosse team is on its way to a state championship after its wins versus MUS and Christian Brothers. **Blake Andrew's** "best hair in the grade by default" has been the intimidating force for this team. We wish them the best.

Our brethren are still falling victim to a lack of loyalty in our city. It all started with **William Wheeler**, and it has continued with our supreme leader, **Braden "Brae Brae" Myers**. The "Justice 4 Braden" movement had a historic impact on the MBA community, surpassing the "Justice for Wheeler" campaign. These movements represent the way our 2019 class supports its brothers in the tough times. **Braden Myers** made a statement on the movement in a Snapchat story: "Hey guys, thank you for all the support, but this needs to stop. I would appreciate it if everyone would take their stories down." What an eloquent statement. We appreciate you Brae Brae.

In other news, it was reported that one of our MBA fallen soldiers was

spotted on campus weeks ago. Does this mean he may be returning to the hill?

The 408 turned out to be an overwhelming success. **DJ Drawgz** won the hearts of hundreds of students from all over Nashville with his impressive display of equipment and music choice. **Ian Hall** said, "Drawgz blew me away." The class made more money than ever expected from the event, and we hope to have more concerts like it in the future. We would like to thank the 408 security committee for ensuring that there were no attempts by the beloved "Ignant Gang" to ruin the event with their notorious tactics. This was a huge victory for the class as a whole. Now, if someone could tell us what the word "ignant" means, that'd be great. Also, a video went viral of our brother **Michael Owings** showing off his impressive dancing at the 408. More than anything, we want to thank Braden for attending the event.

With his new haircut, **Gibby Blakely** has burst onto the scene as the new ladies' man of the 2019 class. He has already stolen the girlfriend of the **Jackson "Tank" Lyell**. Mr. Gibby



**BUSINESS CASUAL:** Garrett Murphy feels pretty proud of his decision not to tuck in his shirt.

Blakely has created beef within the class, and we must decide whether his despicable actions were justified. PSA: If you have a girlfriend and you'd like keep her, we would keep them away from Gibby, Mr. Steal your Girl.

Thank you for once again reading the 2019 class news. Summer is approaching, so that means Garrett Murphy's shirt will be off soon.

# Juniors Meet Deadline

By Thomas Carr and Jack Crawford  
Staff AP Scholars

The class of 2018 is wrapping up its last few months before the senior year reign in style. Things kicked off in an odd way on April 1 with prom. There are many different prom stories that represent the junior class in both good and bad ways, but we only have space to name a few. If one could describe MBA prom in two words, they would be **Ty Allen**. Yes, the night of April 1 marks a historic night in Ty's life that everyone but him will remember. His new connection with Summer in Debbie Bryan's backseat is now quite the intimate relationship. Along those same lines, **Cal Bryan**'s lonely trek through the arctic conditions that night remains to be one of the greatest perseverance stories in modern history.

One character who was not quite into the prom festivities was **Palmer Thombs**, as he was preoccupied with draining all of MBA's wifi to stream the UNC basketball game.

In the academic realm, the junior class might be the most advanced of any grade on campus. **Jabbey** and **Cal** have shown off their academic prowess through their arriving at Latin class 30 minutes early almost every day in pursuit of the motto

*fortitudo per scientiam*. In the physics classroom, **Rob Harvey** and **Jabbey** have frequently visited the one and only Doc Carro, hoping to smoke the competition on the AP exam. Palmer also has attended extra help in physics, but we all know it hasn't and won't pay off. On the lazier side, **Chris Hawkins** can't seem to come to school with a single article of homework ever completed, while **James McKnight** seems to consistently get lucky on every Doc Carro test due to his diligent internet searching for problems to prepare.

Over on the athletic side of things, the soccer and lacrosse teams are both being dominated by junior participation. The combo of **Colin Snell**, **Alex Bulgarino**, **Watson Dill**, **Cole Deal**, and others have helped lead the soccer team to an undefeated record in this historic season with an impressive 3-2 win over FORMER #1 team in the state Father Ryan. The lacrosse team, led by juniors **Gordon and Fenner Pollock**, **Zach Smith**, **Harrison Graves**, **Cal Bryan**, and **Jackson Abbey**, has had its fair share of ups and downs with many frustrations surfacing during the season (the main one being the hamstring injury of star player **Cal Bryan**). However, with back to back convincing wins over Franklin and McCallie to end the season, the team

seems poised for another state championship run.

So yeah, **Palmer Thombs**, what a guy. Throughout the year, Palmer has been a hard worker, a responsible student, and more than anything else, a good friend. "How has Palmer been a good friend?" one might ask, and the answer is simple. Say, for example, you forgot when your second cousin's birthday is, or you want to know what time the New York Giants are playing their third preseason game. Ask Palmer and he will readily tell you, as he peruses his overly in-depth calendar. Palmer is also an avid broadcaster. He has become the face (and the voice) of the lacrosse franchise, as his travelling to McCallie shows the world not only his dedication to the sport but also his desire to miss school. With the recent retirement of **Verne Lundquist**, look for Palmer Thombs on the big stage soon.



**FESTIVITIES:** William Kinard too focused on exams to be seasonally aware.

# Seniors Keep Sliding

By Brett Starr  
GroupMe Solicitor

Summer is approaching, the weather is warm, and **Dick Sartain**, the meanest kid in the senior class, is riding his motorcycle to school. All is well in the world. The school year is coming to a close, and our time at MBA is almost done.

For the Class of 2017, the tradition of coming in second has been a staple of our time at MBA. Recently, the Trap and Skeet Team, led by **Sam Garrett** and **Brey Greene**, took second place in the state. On top of that, the best shooter on the team they lost to was a 12-year-old girl. Despite her age, **Jack Benson** still thought she was pretty.

With summer comes a summer job, and for many seniors already, that job is valet for PMC. **Cal Rieke**, despite his confidence as a valet, is without a doubt the worst employee. No one has wrecked a car yet, but it's bound to happen soon. Other seniors have taken up pizza making and delivery. **Holland Lund** is the reigning Pizza King, but the job took its toll on **Josh Key** and **Magnus Campos**, as they didn't last in the industry. To say the least, delivering pizza from the Charlotte Domino's is life-threatening.

Some seniors, like **Ryan Kosson**,

have found even better ways to make money. Trained by the infamous, sketchy "Tom Locksmith," **Buddy Ryan** is now a locksmith himself. Lock your keys in your car? Get locked out of your house? Give Ryan a call, and he'll break in for you. If you're lucky, you might also get a lesson in String theory and quantum physics (;

As the NHL playoffs continue, Preds Fever is fervent in the senior class. **Mac Lassing** has established himself as the biggest Predators fan in Nashville, as he continuously makes an over the top effort to prove how much he knows about the team. He's grown up a Preds fan, and it's bittersweet for him to see them go deep in the playoffs in his senior year. Stand with Mac.

Harpeth Hall Powderpuff is approaching, and weekly practice has begun. Whether it's flirting, just throwing the ball around, or not even showing up at all, everything occurs besides actually practicing football. However, we've got some secret plays (Monster Right 56 down) to win the game. Run it again. We'll run it again and again. The Juniors will know it's coming, but there will be nothing they can do about it.

The baseball team has been playing well under the senior leadership of "**Roll Tide**" **Davis** and



**CONNECTION:** Peter Taylor '17 caught in a tender moment during 6:00 A.M. yoga in the MBA small gym.

"**Microeconomics**" **Morris**. Also, **Ted Griffin** has been banging in runs with RISP. With the playoffs coming up, the team is looking to make a run and return to the state tournament for the first time since 2013.

With the warming of the weather, "**Street Money**" **Cam Wade** is back on the water reeling them

in. If you've seen his Snap stories, you'd know he's been fishing every weekend. Fishing is his favorite activity, but he's also taken an interest in gardening. He truly has a green thumb, and he would've been a valuable asset to the MBA gardening club over the years.

# Mothers Club Gift Ideas

*Full athletic gear for all sports teams, except football.*

*Two more Benjamin Franklin statues*

*Additional cannons*

*A higher roof for the Dining Hall*

*Helicopter pad on top of Lowry*

*A series of character quotes etched in every Massey locker*

*A life size portrait of Yogi Berra*

*A full archival and yearbook staff*

*A wall for Wall Ball*

*A Dining Hall Netflix account*

*A second computer for The Bell Ringer*

**150**  
Montgomery Bell Academy  
1867-2017

*Another Long Mountain telescope*

*Mothers Club Gift to MBA*

*Three-person tables for the library balcony*

*Squash courts*

*A set of keys to the Innovation Room*

*More chessboards*

*The Republic of Nicaragua*

The Mothers Club is proud to present this exquisite Bell to MBA as a permanent addition to the campus. We hope the Bell will be a daily reminder to the MBA community and students of the tremendous 150th milestone. The Bell represents the MBA time-honored traditions and the respect given and celebrated for MBA's excellence in education. May the Bell ring and resonate for all boys for all time.